Blanchard—F.
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Wm. Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir!

A new bird has been haunting our village for a few days past which baffles my brother and myself after looking over our joint stock of Ornithological literature, including an old copy of Coues and a new copy of Chapman, and I take the liberty of asking you to solve the difficulty.

The bird very much resembles the Rosebreasted Grosbeak in size and appearance. It frequents the taller trees, especially the Elms on the seeds of which it feeds, among the houses of the village. Its conspicuous and often repeated notes first attracted attention, being a succession of four or five deliberately uttered rather piercing whistles

strikingly like the call or plaint of a young turkey. As I before remarked the bird at once recalls the Rosebreasted Grosbeak. Its head and neck are black, the lower limit in front sharply defined and strictly transverse below which is a semicircular, well defined, patch of brick red or bright rufous, quite unlike the color of the Rosebreast yet brighter than the rufous sides of the Chewink's belly. The belly is entirely ashy white. I didn't get so good a view of the back, but towards the sides and on the wings the color appeared to be brown with several small white spots on the wings. Couldn't get a good look at the upper part of the tail, but the bird didn't have so marked a black and white coloration as the Rosebreast. I thought the bill, light in color, was not so thick as that of the last mentioned. The bird appeared rather moderate in its movements remaining some time in one place, and not so active and overflowing with vivacity as the Rosebreast.

It occurred to me that it might be an escaped cage bird yet I should hardly suppose it would be kept for its song, although it might be for its plumage.

Trusting you will pardon this trespass on your attention I am

Yours very truly
Fredrica Blanchard